

Volume IV
October 2016

Lincoln National Forest Plan Revision Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Latest News	1
Overall Timeline	1
Assessment Concepts	2
Looking Ahead—On-Line Mapping	2
Current Status	3
Quarterly Timeline	3
Looking Ahead	3
Questions and Answers	4
Contact Us!	4



Latest News

THE ASSESSMENT

We are wrapping up the initial drafts of the assessment chapters. In the upcoming months we will:

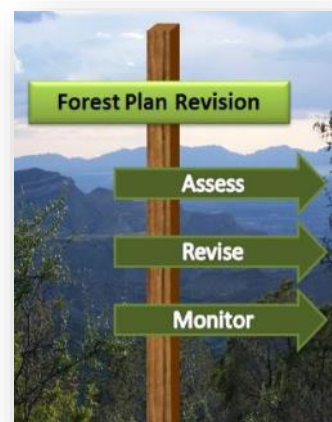
1. Send initial drafts to our Regional Office (RO) resource specialists for an initial review.
2. Make edits to the chapters.
3. Combine edited chapters into an overall initial draft and send to the RO planning review team for a formal review.
4. Release draft assessment to the public for feedback.
5. Hold public meetings to discuss needs for change to the existing forest plan (see page 2).
6. gather feedback from the public on key findings of the assessment and to

collaboratively develop the need for change determinations.

Following release of the draft assessment around January or February 2017, we will hold a series of public meetings focused on 'need for change'.

Initial meetings following release will be focused on presenting the draft assessment, key findings and conclusions. A series of meetings to follow will focus more on collaboratively identifying need for change to existing plan direction.

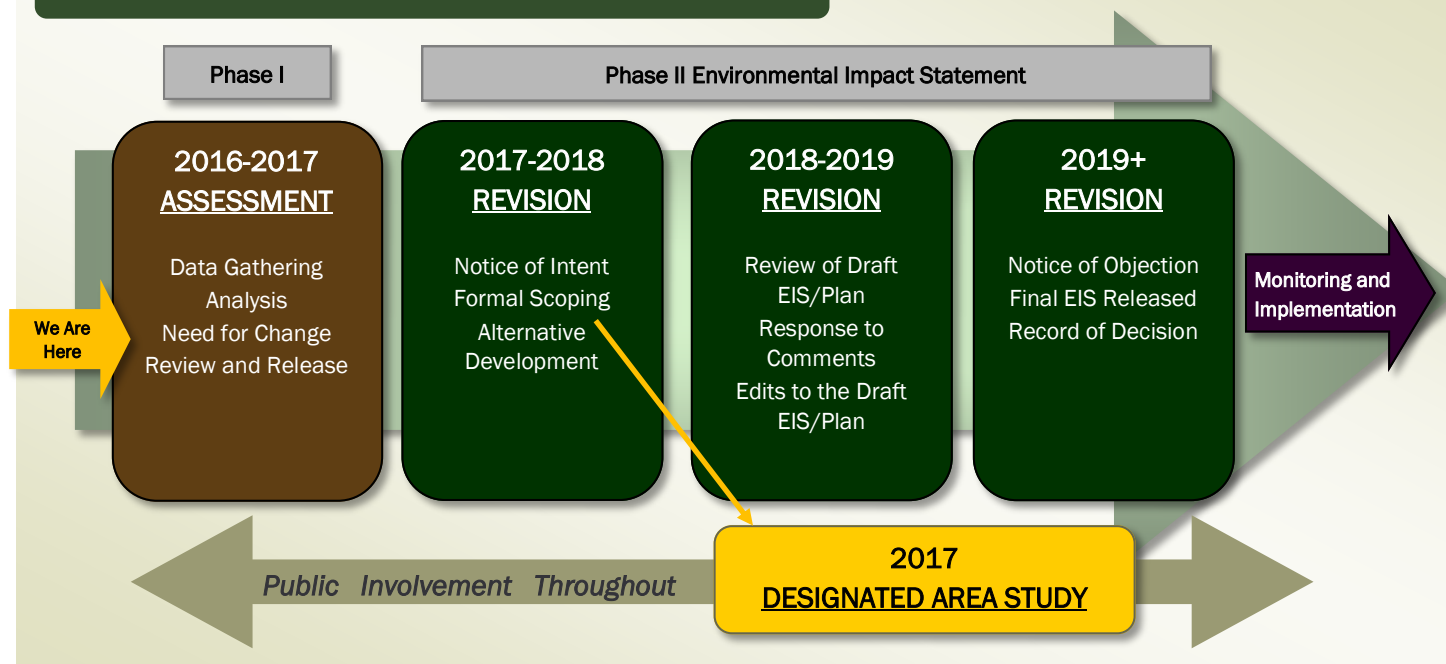
We are also developing an on-line mapping tool for you to peruse much of the data used within the assessment. This tool will allow you to zoom into areas of interest to you and



Forest Plan Revision Logo showing the three phases: Assessment / Revision / Monitoring

query the data associated with that area. See page 2 for more on this 'AGOL' (ArcGIS On-Line) tool.

Our Overall Timeline





Above: A very early (circa 1900) lookout reportedly from the area near Cloudcroft, NM

Below: A mid-1930's lookout built by the Civilian Conservation Corps newly restored by the Lincoln.



Trivia

1. In what 4 towns does the Lincoln NF have offices?



Above: The old Fairchild Ranger Station (circa 1920's)

Answers

1. Alamogordo, Ruidoso, Cloudcroft and Carlsbad.

Assessment Concepts

NEED FOR CHANGE

Our purpose of the Assessment Document is to determine what might "need to change" from our current forest plan.

These 'need to change' items will revolve around our 15 areas of interest (plus caves = 16) are listed below.

Ecosystems—Air/Soil/Water—Natural Processes—Carbon Stocks—At Risk Species—Caves—Social, Cultural and Economic Conditions—Multiple Uses—Recreation—Energy/Minerals—Infrastructure—Areas of Tribal Importance—Cultural and Historic Resources—Land Ownership and Use—Existing Designated Areas

Your participation will be critical in helping us to compile a picture of what needs to change and these types of comments will be the main

subject of our next set of public meetings.

Once the final assessment with all of the 'need for changes' have been presented we will begin our next step.

We will enter into our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and use the 'need for changes' to help us develop alternatives.



Above: A 1923 timber loading zone in the Sacramento Mountains—below, a 2012 shot of the same area.

Left: Circa 1900 erosion

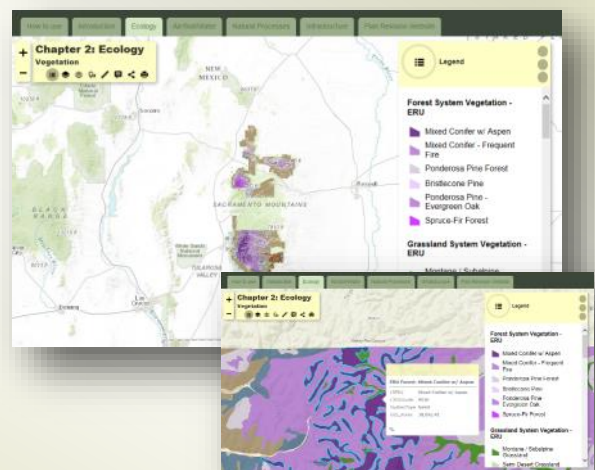


Looking Ahead: On-Line Mapping of the Assessment Data

ArcGIS On-Line (AGOL)

When we release our draft assessment to you in early 2017, we will also release an on-line mapping tool for . This tool will let you see the data shown in the maps of the assessment in a much more useful way.

You will be able to zoom in and click on features to see your particular area of interest. Learn more about this at our public meetings and in the next issue of our plan revision newsletter.



Our Timeline: Next 3 Months

October

Reviews of our assessment chapters continue along with making edits to ensure a complete picture is provided.

November

Edits to the assessment chapters

December

DRAFT assessment completed and released to the public for feedback.

January 2017 Newsletter

On the horizon

Looking Ahead: Cooperating Agency Status



COOPERATING AGENCY STATUS

Since starting the plan revision we have received many questions about, and interest in, Collaborating Partnerships and/or Cooperating Agency Status.

We will discuss this further in our next newsletter (January) as we approach this next stage in our planning process.

We will enter into Cooperating Agency Status with eligible agencies when we begin our scoping phase of the Environmental Impact Statement for forest plan revision. This is currently expected to be around spring of 2017.

“Cooperating Agency” is a special status provided to governmental entities chosen to partner with the U.S. Forest Service during our NEPA phase. This status allows us to invite state, local, tribal governments or federal agencies, who have jurisdiction or special expertise to share their insights.

Link for a Government’s Guide to Plan Revision (includes Cooperating Agency Status):

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd508232.pdf

CITIZEN’S GUIDE TO PARTICIPATING IN PLANNING

Below is a link to the various ways made available for you to participate.

Link for a Citizen’s Guide to Participation:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/>



Questions and Answers

Q: What information do you have to help me understand plan revision and other associated topics?

A: If you are new to plan revision we have a number of documents on-line including our past newsletters that may help you understand more.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814310>

A: We also have a 1 hour radio interview featuring our acting Forest Supervisor and Forest Planner from this past summer.

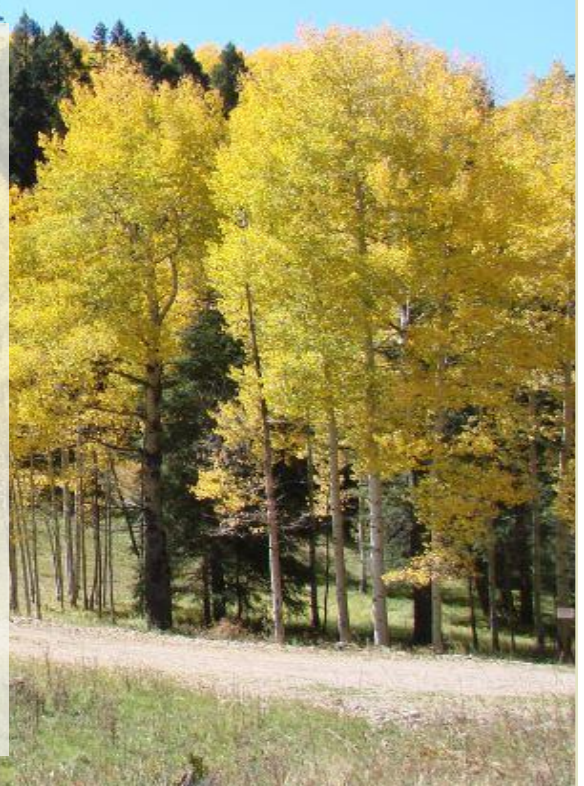
<http://snmradio.com/krsyam/Programs/071416a.mp3>

A: Please also visit our Frequently Asked Questions page

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814313>

Have additional questions?

Email us at the address listed in the bottom right corner.



How Can I Participate?

Public participation may include providing input and comments, understanding the process, staying informed and more. Throughout the planning process, we will offer many different opportunities for you to get involved including formal public meetings, presentations and discussions with groups and chatting with individuals.

Public “need for change” meetings will occur this winter or early 2017 following release of the draft assessment. These meetings will be focused on sharing the assessment and identifying needs for change to the 1986 Forest Plan. Please note that while we are completing the assessment, our capacity to host or attend public meetings will be very limited. However, we encourage you to stay informed and contact us at any time by:

1. Signing up to our mailing list.
2. Emailing us at:
Inf_fpr_comments@fs.fed.us
3. Calling us at (575) 434-7200.



Public Meeting in Ruidoso, NM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Our web address for Plan Revision:

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lincolnforestplan

Our email address for Plan Revision

Inf_fpr_comments@fs.fed.us

Our physical mailing address:

Lincoln National Forest
3463 Las Palomas Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-434-7200

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln>

